

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 52-84 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 65 and 79 being the independent claims. Claims 65 and 79 have been amended to more particularly point out what Applicant regards as the invention and to make explicit that which was previously implicit in the claims. This amendment is believed to introduce no new matter, and its entry is respectfully requested. Support for the amendment can be found at least in the cancelled claims and throughout the specification, specifically at pages 16-18.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is Traversed

In the Office Action at page 2, the Examiner has rejected claims 79-84 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner has asserted that "[c]laim 79 is indefinite for the recitation of improper Markush group (for the group of enzymes), because the claim is missing a conjunction rendering the claims indefinite in what the group includes." (Paper No. 7, page 3.) Solely to expedite allowance of the claims, and not in acquiescence to the

Examiner's rejection, claim 79 has been amended to recite a conjunction. As such, Applicant submits that the rejection has been rendered moot and requests its withdrawal.

The Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection Is Traversed

The Office Action also rejected claims 1 and 52-84 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 and 36-51 of U.S. Patent No. 6,291,164. Applicant traverses this rejection.

In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,291,164. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

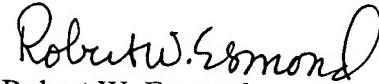
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Robert W. Blakesley
Appl. No. 09/883,183

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert W. Esmond
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,893

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

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